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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,711	04/22/2002	Kazumi Iijima	KKH-013	8628
7590 10/20/2004				
Rader, Fishman & Grauer 1233 20th Street N W Suite 501 Washington, DC 20036			EXAMINER DESANTO, MATTHEW F	
			ART UNIT 3763	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,711

Applicant(s)

IIJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew F DeSanto

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/8/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Minkus et al. (USPN 5460617).

Minkus et al. discloses a plunger with a screw portion, a pair of ring members (34,48), and a plurality of vane members (42,44), a flange with a rib (58) in between the first ring and the flange. (Figures 1-3 and entire reference)

3. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kimber et al. (USPN 6,068,614).

Kimber et al. discloses a plunger with a screw portion; a pair of ring members, and a plurality of vane members, as well as a flange portion and one or two gripping ring members. (Figure 7 and entire reference)

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4. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Hirschman et al. (USPN 6042565).

Hirschman et al. discloses a plunger with a screw portion; a pair of ring members, and a plurality of vane members, as well as a flange portion and one or two gripping ring members. (Figures 1, 2A, 2C, 2D, 4A, and entire reference)

5. Claims 1, and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shanley et al. (USPN 5,685,864).

Shanley et al. discloses a plunger with a screw portion, a pair of ring members, and a plurality of vane members, a flange with a rib in between the first ring and the flange. (Figures 1-3 and entire reference)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and/or 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Minkus et al., or Grimard, or Hirschman et al.

Minkus et al., or Hirschman et al. or Kimber et al. teach the claimed invention but fail to disclose eight pieces of the vane member, which are arranged at regular intervals and at central angles of 45 degrees.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to make the vane members out of eight pieces or more because this change in number of the vane members is a mere matter of design choice. This is a duplication of the components of the prior art device, and thus has been held in the courts as a "design consideration within the skill of the art." [See In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).]

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments, filed 8/11/04 with respect to the rejections of claims 1-4 have been considered but are not found persuasive.

9. The limitations added are functional and intended use limitations. In order to receive an apparatus patent there must be structurally different elements or characteristics in the claim. An apparatus patent cannot be granted for functional language or intended use, please see MPEP section 2114. Therefore, the arguments are moot because there are drawn to intended use and functional language. The prior art of record would be inherently capable of performing the function claimed in the applicant's invention such as inserting the plunger before the screw portion is mounted to the gasket, and thus the rejections stand.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew F DeSanto whose telephone number is 1-703-305-3292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick LUCCHESI can be reached on (703) 308-2698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Matthew DeSanto
Art Unit 3763
October 18, 2004



NICHOLAS D. LUCCHESI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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